

**REMARKS**

Claims 4, 5 and 9-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15, 16, 19-21, 23 and 26-28 are amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed and in the claims prior to amendment. Thus, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 5 and 9-28 contain allowable subject matter.


The Office Action objects to claims 15, 16, 19-21, 23, 26 and 27 for various informalities. By this Amendment, claims 15, 16, 19-21, 23, 26 and 27 are amended to correct the informalities cited in the Office Action. These amendments are in no way intended to alter the scope of the claims, but merely to correct informalities in the claim language.

The Office Action rejects claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the term "pillaring anions" lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 28 has been amended to correctly depend from claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is not indefinite, as claim 13 provides a proper antecedent basis for the term "pillaring anions."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 4, 5 and 9-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 30, 2004

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